

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 2-7 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 9-15 remain pending. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the sensory regimen does not include the administration of an anti-acne composition. Support can be found in the specification at least in Example 3.

II. Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because it contains an embedded hyperlink. Applicants have deleted the embedded hyperlink by this amendment. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 9-15 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,466,446 ("Stiefel et al.") or U.S. 4,545,977 ("Gaull") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,304,112 ("Mrklas et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest Applicants claimed method for reducing the number and severity of acne lesions on the skin of a mammal comprising the step of administering a sensory regimen in an amount effective to downregulate the activity of the HPA axis of said mammal wherein the regimen is free of the administration of an anti-acne composition. Applicants have demonstrated in Example 3, Tables 6-9, that the sensory regimen by itself showed broad emotional and well-being benefits. The use of a sensory regimen to reduce the number and severity of acne lesions on the skin of a mammal is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest Applicants claimed invention and the rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing presents a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action. An early and favorable response to this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that a discussion with Applicants' representative would be helpful in resolving the outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 10-0750/JBP0571USCIP1/EMH. If a fee is required for an Extension of time 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Erin M. Harriman/
Erin M. Harriman
Reg. No. 40,410

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-3619
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